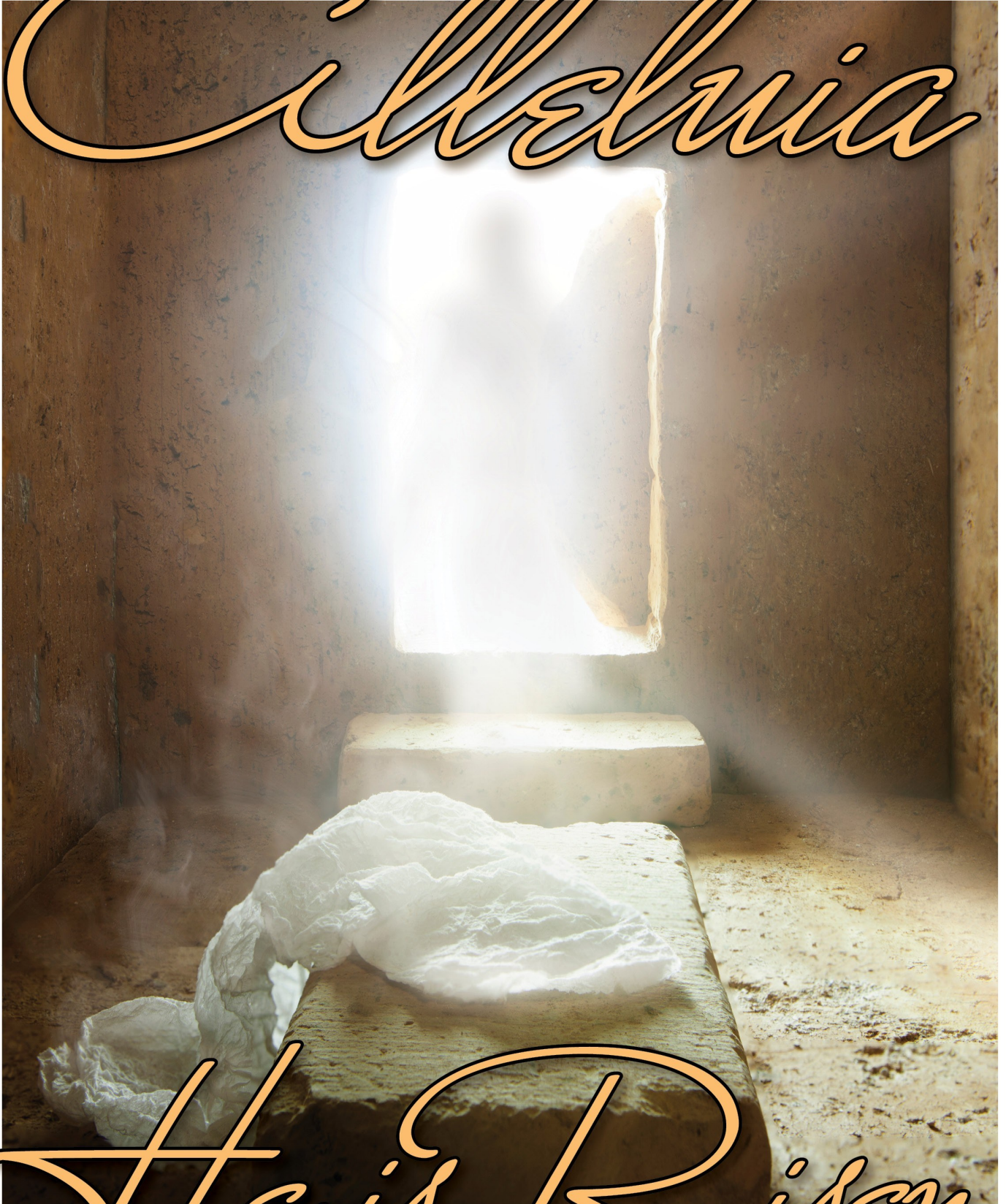


Alleluia



He is Risen



**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 4 & 5, 2026
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**



**PASTOR
REVEREND RICHARD C. BRENSINGER, M. DIV.**

**MASS SCHEDULE
SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:30 PM
SUNDAY: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
DAILY: SEE MASS SCHEDULE
HOLY DAY: (VIGIL 7:00 PM) 8:00 AM**

SACRAMENTAL AND PARISH INFORMATION

New Members

Welcome to Saint Francis Parish. Please call the Parish Center Office in order to register in our parish, or stop in during office hours or on the weekend after all Masses. One needs to be a member of our parish three months in order to receive a certificate of eligibility. Please notify the office if you change your address or move away.

Religious Education (PREP)

All children of the parish should be receiving religious instruction through our parish school or through our Parish Religious Education Program which has been combined with the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena. Please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education, Donna Sciacca at 610-432-7655 or by email at prep@cathedral-church.org

Marriage

We look forward to celebrating God's gift of love in the sacrament of marriage for any registered and practicing parishioner. Diocesan policy states that contact should be made one year, but no later than six months, prior to the proposed date of marriage in order to begin pre-nuptial instructions. Call the Parish Center Office for further information.

Baptisms

Baptisms are held for our registered (at least three months) and practicing parishioners normally the first Sunday of the month immediately after the 10:30 Mass. Parents are to register for a Baptismal Preparation Class held normally on the Wednesday before each baptism in the Parish Center. At least one Godparent must be a practicing Catholic for the valid reception of baptism. That person must also be able to receive a certificate of eligibility from their Catholic parish. A Non-Catholic Christian is permitted to act as a witness. Parents should begin to make arrangements for a baptism during pregnancy.

Godparents & Confirmation Sponsors Info

You must be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, must be known to attend Mass regularly and, if married, the marriage must be recognized by the church. These requirements are the universal law of the church. All requests for 'Letters of Good Standing' are to be made well in advance to the Parish Office.

Ministry to the Sick

Please notify the Parish Center Office when a parishioner is in the hospital or home and would like to receive communion or the anointing of the sick. Visits can also be made to those parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive confession and communion.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We welcome and support all whose faith journey brings them to seek full communion with the Catholic Church. Please call the Parish Center Office for further information.

Saint John Vianney Regional School

We encourage all our parents to consider sending their children to our parish school, Saint John Vianney Regional School. Our school is located at 210 North 18th Street in Allentown. Please contact our school principal at 610-435-8981 to register your child for a faith based, middle-states accredited, Catholic education.

Allentown Central Catholic High School

We encourage our high school students to consider attending our local Catholic high school - Allentown Central Catholic. Please contact the Director of Admissions, at (610) 437-4601 for more information.

Wills and Memorials

As a lasting remembrance or final gift to your parish, all parishioners are encouraged to include St. Francis of Assisi in their wills or as a beneficiary on an insurance policy. At the time of passing of a relative or friend, consider enrolling them in the Sanctuary Memorial Fund. Memorials are available in the Parish Center Office and are often used in lieu of flowers.

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC
Direct Telephone Number (800)791-9209

The Diocese of Allentown provides assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or employee/volunteer of the Diocese/Parish. Parents, guardians, children, and survivors of sexual abuse are invited and encouraged to contact the Diocese of Allentown for more information about this program. The fullness of compassion should be extended to these victims by the Church. To learn more about the Diocese of Allentown's Youth Protection Programs, Sexual Abuse Policy, and Code of Conduct, please visit www.allentowndiocese.org and click on "Youth Protection" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the **Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service** at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.



Sanctuary Lamp Memorials

If you would like to memorialize the red sanctuary lamp for the Tabernacle for a week, the cost is \$10 for the seven day candle. Please contact Stephanie Epler at the Parish Office, 610-433-6102, for information.

**The Sanctuary Lamp Memorial for the week April 5, 2026 is
In Memory of The Romanic Family
By Jim and Susan Steiner**

Choir Schedule

There will be NO choir practice this week. Happy Easter!!



Parish Office Closing

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 5th, and Easter Monday, April 6th.



Thanks to Our Candy Makers

We wish to say thank you to Paula Rollins and all those volunteers who helped to make our Easter Egg fundraiser a great success.



Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, April 6th at **5:30 PM** in Heritage Hall. Enter through the Cedar Street ramp. For more info., call Kate at 610-737-7232.

Food Pantry

The Outreach Committee's Food Pantry will be open to the public on Wednesday, April 8th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, in the Franciscan Center (former Convent.)



Attention All Women! "Women Walking in Faith"

Our group of faith-filled women will meet on Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00 PM in Heritage Hall. All women 18 and over are invited to participate. Guests are welcome so don't hesitate to ask your friends and neighbors. Call Michelle Evans 610-737-9469 with questions.



BREAKFAST

Men of St. Francis Breakfast

Will be held next Sunday, April 12th. Breakfast is served at your table by our volunteer waitresses from 9:30 AM to Noon. Cost is **\$10.00 for Adults, Ages 6 to 12 \$6.00, ages 5 and under Free.** Menu selections include: Eggs, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Ham, Toast, Orange Juice, Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate.



Mass Schedule

Monday, April 6, 2026

Acts 2:14, 22-23; Mt 28:8-15

7:00 PM Intentions of Barbara Yost

Tuesday, April 7th

Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18

8:00 AM Jerwin P. & Bonifacio D. Soriano

Wednesday, April 8th

Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35

8:00 AM Walter Reichard

Thursday, April 9th

Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48

8:00 AM Pat Hanna

Friday, April 10th

Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14

8:00 AM People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

**Saturday and Sunday, April 11th & 12th
Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

4:30 PM Sanctuary Memorial Fund Members

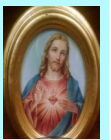
8:30 AM Eleanor Burnatowski

10:30 AM Paulita Ilagan

Sacred Heart and Miraculous Medal Novenas



The Miraculous Medal Novena is recited every Monday after the 7:00 PM evening Mass. The Novena to the Sacred Heart is recited on the First Friday each month at the 8:00 AM daily



Mass. Each novena comes with special benefits. All are invited. Father Rich will hear confessions prior to the Monday 7:00 PM Mass, in addition to the Saturday confessions at 3:15 PM.

Recitation of the Rosary

The Rosary will be recited before all Masses the weekend of April 11 and 12, 2026. The Rosary begins about 25 minutes before each Mass.



My dear parishioners,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Our journey of Lent is now complete. We saw the suffering and death of our Lord and Savior. And now we witness the glorious and triumphant resurrection! As Peter said to Christ on Mount Tabor at the transfiguration, "How good is it to be here!" It is truly good. Hopefully, we will take what we have carried through this past Lenten season and share the news of our salvation.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your constant dedication to our parish. In particular, I want to thank all of our parish staff and liturgical ministers who make your priest pleased to be here. May God bless you and your families with Easter joy!

In His Name, with Saint Francis, I am

Fr. Rich



St. John Vianney Regional School
 210 N. 18th St., Allentown, PA 18104

- Preschool Programs, Full Day
 - Kindergarten through 8th Grade
 - Safe Environment, Faith-Filled Curriculum
 - Outstanding Academics
 - Free Tour and Shadow Days
- SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind, and spirit!
 Phone: 610-435-8981

Email: principal@stjohnvianneyschool.org
Call us today to schedule a tour at your convenience!
SJVRs: Educating a child's character, mind and spirit!

School Mission Statement

St. John Vianney Regional School is a Catholic community dedicated to living our faith in Jesus Christ from Preschool through 8th Grade. Our school and families partner together to encourage an appreciation for our diverse world. In a caring and respectful environment, we develop independent thinkers through spiritual values and strong academics. St. John Vianney students celebrate each day through prayer, education, and service; and embrace tomorrow committed to faith, leadership, and community.



Wee Worship Bags Now Available for Our Parish Children

Our Wee Worship Ministry has quiet activity bags for toddlers and preschool aged children to borrow and use during Masses. These bags are designed to serve as tools to help them learn about their faith while keeping them occupied as your family participates in the liturgy. We kindly ask that you return the bag and it's contents to the designated space after Mass so others can enjoy for the next Mass.



March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday
Vocations Ministry

"He is not here; for He has risen." Matthew 28:6)

Christ's resurrection opens the way to new life and hope for all who follow Him. Through priesthood and consecrated life, men and women share in this victory over sin and death, bringing the joy of the Risen Lord to others through prayer and service. Could God be calling you to proclaim the hope of Easter in your life and vocation?

Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 610-437-0755 or via email: jmaria@allentowndiocese.org

Save The Date!!!

Our St Francis Basket Raffle is BACK!!! Join us the weekend of May 30th and 31st. Times – TBD. There will be numerous baskets to bid on – SOMETHING for everyone in your family! Raffle Tickets will be on Sale in April in the Parish Office. Food available for purchase - dine in or take out!
 A ST FRANCIS EVENT IS ALWAYS A WIN !!!



Outreach Lucky Cash and Gift Card Bingo

We regret that we missed the following names in a recent bulletin: Thank you to Bob and Milly Dietrick for their generous donation towards our event on March 15th.



St. Francis Senior Citizens Meeting

On Tuesday, April 14th, the Senior Citizens will meet at 1:00 PM in Heritage Hall for their monthly meeting, weather permitting. For info, call Madeline Klotz at 610-395-7386.

John Patrick Publishing Company prints our weekly bulletin. To place ads on the back of our bulletin, contact Michele Barron at 484-300-2062.

Liturgical Ministers Schedule
Saturday and Sunday, April 11th & 12th

	<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>8:30AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Lector	G. Rodriguez	M. K. McMahon	M. Seltzer
Eucharistic Ministers	J. DeLeo, P. Stiles, J. Fittipaldi	D. Issermoyer, H. Moyer, T. Racek	B. Ocasio, M. Dietrick, M. Evans
Cantor	A. Eaves	M. Issermoyer	M. Maramag
Organist	D. Badesso	R. Venditto	D. Badesso
Altar Servers	V. Herman, M. Joliffe	C. Piersza	S. Issermoyer
Sacristan	J. Johnson	T. Jacob	T. Jacob
Rosary	H. Moyer	M. Issermoyer	C. Stockdale

March Winter Weekend Raffle Winners

March 1st \$500 - Pamela Stiles
March 7th \$50 - William Chuk
March 8th \$100 - Dennis Reichard
March 14th \$50 - Will Russell
March 15th \$100 - Maryann Levkolic
March 21st \$50 - Romy McFadden
March 22nd \$100 - Jerry Paukovits
March 28th \$50 - Deacon Bob Young
March 29th \$100 - Marie Volack



*Congratulations to our March winners!!!
Thanks for participating, and see you next winter!*

Envelope Use

We ask if you receive parish envelopes, that you use them rather than putting loose cash offerings in the collection basket. This will enable us to give you an annual contribution statement that can be used for income tax purposes. It also shows that you have attended Mass. If you receive envelopes but cannot afford to donate, mark your envelope with a letter "P" showing us that you were present. If you give online and feel a bit awkward when the collection basket comes by, you may check the box saying "I've given online" and drop in your empty envelope in the basket. Or you may simply just give online and ask for your envelopes to be stopped.

Pines Dinner Theatre Show

We will be attending a show as a group at Pines Dinner Theatre, 315 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, on Thursday, October 1, 2026. No bus required; you will drive there yourself or carpool with friends. Your group ticket includes your reserved seat for the show, along with a meal of garden salad, entree, dessert, iced tea, coffee and fountain sodas, and covers gratuity for your server. Meal is served at noon and show begins at 1:30 PM. The all-inclusive price is \$75.00. Call Stephanie at the Parish Office to reserve your seat, 610-433-6102.



Choir Members Needed

Do you enjoy singing?? Do you enjoy meeting, working with, and laughing with your fellow parishioners?? Then, please join our parish choir!!

We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 PM and sing 2-3 times per month...not at the same Mass. Our schedule varies each month. You do not need to be able to read music...you just need to love spreading God's joy through music. Remember...those who sing pray twice!! Please contact Rosanne at rosiemusic4@gmail.com or call 484-225-2080 for more details. Thank you!



Traveling Statue of Saint Francis of Assisi

Our blessed statue of Saint Francis can come and spend some time in your home. Each parish household can sign up for a week to "house" Saint Francis. Please call the Parish Office at 610-433-6102 to schedule your week.



Shutterbug Wanted!!!

Do you attend lots of our parish events? Do you enjoy photography? If so, we could use your help. Our social media team would love to be everywhere, all the time but sometimes we just cannot. All you have to do is take a photo or two with your phone and text them over! If you would like to help out occasionally by taking photos, contact Camille Stockdale at 484-547-6270 or stockp8792@gmail.com. No experience necessary (as evidenced by our current photos!).



Floral Intentions



Floral intentions for in front of the Holy Family and the Sacred Heart can be offered in memory of a loved one or in honor of a living person(s), or an anniversary of marriage. It is our wish to beautify the altar with your spiritual intention(s).

A donation can be made for live flowers to be placed in front of one statue for \$30.00 or \$60.00 for both places of honor. Names of those whom flowers are for and who they are from will be announced in the bulletin. Please call the church office with your intention, date requested and name of donor (610)-433-6102.

Hearing Devices Are Available



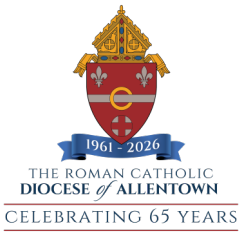
As a reminder, our *Listen Hearing Devices* are available to sign out while you are attending Mass. They are kept at the Parish Office and can be signed out and borrowed on your way into Mass. They must be returned immediately after Mass.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW April 26th after 10:30 AM Mass SOUL ON FIRE

This film is an emotional and faith-filled portrait of resilience as O'Leary not only battles to survive but ultimately discovers what it means to truly live. From frontline workers to family members and the support of the wider community, this film is a celebration of heroes. We will once again bring in lunch. Stay tuned for the menu. All are welcome to join us—Friends, Family, All. Movie Club—Always Faithful, Always Fun, Always FREE!!!! Trailer - <https://youtu.be/CsIVGLETWps>.



Mass of Thanksgiving for 65th Anniversary



You're invited to join us for a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Diocese of Allentown. This special liturgy will be celebrated on Saturday, April 11th at 4:15 PM at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, located at 1825 W. Turner Street, Allentown. All are welcome to come and give thanks for 65 years of faith, service, and hope.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

Join us for an intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion. In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment, you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations and activities flowing from the meditations, you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness. For registration information contact: Carol Swavely, MA, OSF at 1-866-3RACHEL (Toll free) or 610-435-1541ext 5341. You may also email Carol at cswavely@allentowndioocese.org. The retreat will be held April 24-26, 2026. Deadline for registration is April 17, 2026.

Disability Ministry Training Days

All persons—of any age and with any disability—have a home in the Church. The Diocese of Allentown will be hosting the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) to provide a free two-day disability ministry training on April 21st and April 22, 2026 at St. Joseph the Worker, 1879 Applewood Dr, Orefield, PA 18069. Clergy, parish employees, diocesan staff, volunteers from any ministry, and the families of persons with disabilities are all welcomed and encouraged to register.

Day 1: Tuesday, April 21st: Mental Health. Topics will include accompaniment, stigma, trauma-informed care, and suicide.

Day 2: Wednesday, April 22nd: Disability Ministry and Universal Design. Learn how removing barriers—including non-physical barriers—opens the doors of the Church to all. Topics will include parish assessment tools, adaptive catechesis, guidance around language, and other resources.

Both days begin with Mass at 8:30 AM and conclude by 5 PM. Lunch will be provided. Register no later than April 17th for one or both days using the following form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQXFqXa4S11h0Qp_4lg_IR5IAEGFPGewhgyvpcfKGwThdGGQ/viewform.

The Friend Ship Ministry

St. Ann's Parish Life Center, 526 Fairview St., Emmaus, 2 to 4 PM on Sunday, April 19th (third Sunday); ministry for young adults with disabilities (19 and up) to foster friendships and sense of belonging through fun, service, and spiritual activities. One caregiver must attend with the participant; register, <https://forms.gle/ufomX-XcchgBNapWC7>, or email mciofallo@comcast.net.

Bingo

The Blue Star Mothers of the Lehigh Valley are sponsoring a Cash Bingo on Sunday, April 26th, at St. Elizabeth Parish Hall, 435 Pershing Blvd., Whitehall. Doors open at 11:30 AM; Bingo begins at 12:30 PM. \$30 per person in advance/\$35 at the door; 15 Games + Specials; Food and Refreshments available for purchase. Call Judy – 610-428-0778 or Joanny – 610-349-7791. Proceeds benefit active-duty military and local veterans.

Diocesan Cemetery Mausoleum

The new Diocesan Cemetery Mausoleum, Tongues as of Fire-Assumption of Mary Mausoleum is now available at Holy Savior Cemetery for the purchase of entombment rights in a single or companion crypt or interment in side by side niches for cremated remains. The Resurrection-Ascension Mausoleum is available at both Resurrection (610-395-3819 x1) and Holy Savior (610-866-2372 x1) Cemeteries.

Feed Your Faith Gift Card Program

"FYF" is truly the easiest way to help your parish with no extra money out of your pocket! By purchasing gift cards for things you would pay for anyway--you earn money for your parish. Every little bit helps and it adds up quickly.

1 parishioner buys a \$100 gift card with a 5% rebate = \$5.00 for St. Francis each week
100 parishioners each buy a \$100 gift card with a 5% rebate = \$500 for St. Francis each week
100 parishioners each buy a \$100 in-stock gift card each week for one year=\$26,000!

 Catholic Foundation
OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

**BELIEVES IN
ST. FRANCIS**



A gift in your will, an IRA transfer, or an investment / insurance beneficiary secures the future of our parish & school.



Please....No gum in church!
Please be respectful of the Holy Eucharist.

PARISH PHONE DIRECTORY

BUSINESS MANAGER

Dennis Reichard 610-433-6102 ext 34
dreichard@stfrancisallentown.org

BULLETIN

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102 ext 10
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

Rosanne Venditto 484-225-2080

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

Paula Rollins 484-241-1986

"FEED YOUR FAITH" GIFT CARD PROGRAM

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Fr. Richard Brensinger 610-433-6102
rbrensinger@allentowndiocese.org

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

Donna Gerancher 610-433-6102 ext 15
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org

MEN OF ST. FRANCIS

Chuck Epler 484-809-1275

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Helen Moyer 610-439-0922

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Kate McFadden 610-737-7232

PARISH OFFICE

610-433-6102

PARISH LIFE COORDINATOR

Donna Gerancher 610-433-6102 ext 15
dgerancher@stfrancisallentown.org

PARISH NURSES

Barbara Puzzella, RN 610-433-6102

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Helen Moyer 610-439-0922
sfaPPC18@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY

Stephanie Epler 610-433-6102 ext 10
sepler@stfrancisallentown.org

PASTOR

Fr. Richard Brensinger 610-433-6102

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Donna Sciacca (Cathedral) 610-432-7655
prep@cathedral-church.org

SANCTUARY MEMORIAL FUND

Anne Palmisano 610-433-6102

SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

Madeline Klotz 610-395-7386

ST. JOHN VIANNEY REGIONAL SCHOOL

Matthew Carlin, Principal 610-435-8981

ST. MARTHA'S MINISTRY

Tara Burkus 607-760-8743

WEBSITE

Camille Stockdale 610-433-6102
stockp8792@gmail.com

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Theresa Racek 610-428-0708

WOMEN WALKING IN FAITH

Michelle Evans 610-737-9469

"Feed Your Faith" Gift Card Program

"*Feed Your Faith*" is the Parish's easiest fund-raising program. It costs you nothing extra, but it benefits the Parish immensely! Each gift card you buy has a return of 1% to 14% profit to the parish. **The number in parenthesis represents the percentage of profit the Parish makes.** Please consider buying the gift cards to do your grocery shopping, give as gifts, or just to purchase instead of using cash at the retailers. Please see the list below for our participating retailers. *These gift cards are usually available every day in the Parish Office!*



Amazon.com (2%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Applebees (8%): \$10, \$25

Banana Republic (14%): \$25

Barnes and Nobles (8%): \$10, \$25

Bath and Body Works (12%): \$10, \$25

Bonefish Grill (10%): \$25

Boscov's (8%): \$25

Carrabbas (10%): \$25

Cheesecake Factory (5%): \$25

Dunkin Donuts (3%): \$10, \$25

Gap (14%): \$25

Giant (10%): \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100

Home Depot (4%): \$25, \$100

Kohl's (4%): \$10, \$25

Longhorn Steakhouse (8%): \$25

Lowe's (4%): \$25, \$100

Macy's (10%): \$25

McDonald's (2%): \$25, \$10

Old Navy (14%): \$25

Olive Garden (8%): \$25

Outback Steakhouse (10%): \$25

Panera Bread (8%): \$10

Red Robin (8%): \$25

Red Lobster (8%): \$25

Redner's Warehouse (5%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Sam's Club (2.5%): \$25, \$100

Starbucks (4.5%): \$10, \$25

Target (2.5%): \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100

Texas Roadhouse (8%): \$25

Visa (1.25%): \$25, \$50, \$100 (no activation fee!)

Wal-Mart (2.5%): \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100

Wawa (1%): \$25

Wegman's (5%): \$25, \$50, \$100

Weis (5%): \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100

